

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS MUSCAT 000597

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/ARPI (TROBERTS), NEA/PPD (CWHITTLESEY), NEA/P  
(FFINVER), INR/R/MR

LONDON FOR GOLDRICH  
PARIS FOR ZEYA  
USCENTCOM FOR PLUSH  
FOREIGN PRESS CENTER/ASILAS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KPAO](#) [KMDR](#) [OIIP](#) [MU](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SETTLEMENT EXPANSION IN PALESTINE, HATE  
GROUPS IN AMERICA, AND REFORMING THE ARAB WORLD

-----  
International Mediator, Mediate!  
-----

[1](#)1. On April 7, the government-owned Arabic daily "Oman" carried  
an editorial entitled, "Sharon's Projects to Where?"

"Despite the Palestinian leadership's insistence that Sharon  
withdraw from the Gaza strip, it appears that he will once again  
ignore their requests and go against his previously conciliatory  
statements by expanding Israeli settlements in the West Bank. If  
the Bush administration were to demand that the roadmap be  
implemented, it would force Sharon to give up his plans to expand  
the settlements... If Bush really wants peace between Israel and  
Palestine, he will stress to Sharon that the U.S. will not allow  
Israel to continue building settlements in the West Bank."

-----  
Terrorism: Where Is Our Focus?  
-----

[1](#)2. On April 9, the privately-owned Arabic daily "al-Watan"  
carried an editorial entitled "The American Usama":

"Since September 11, the American security community has closely  
watched Arabs and Muslims in the United States and worldwide out  
of a fear that they may be affiliated with al-Qaida or Usama Bin  
Laden. They forget that in America there are over 760 hate  
groups that promote violent forms of racism. The American  
security services are not concerned with these groups that are  
known to have illegal weapons and regularly carry out crimes  
against humanity. The events of September 11 have distracted  
American policemen and the FBI from their own homegrown  
terrorists, so they target Arabs and Muslims. It is wise to keep  
track of Usama's followers inside of the U.S., but it is foolish  
to ignore the millions of potential homegrown Usamas that live  
throughout the United States and carry arms of all kinds,  
including the kinds of biological and chemical weapons that have  
yet to be found in Iraq."

-----  
Arab Nations Reform Decisions  
-----

[1](#)3. The privately-owned Arabic daily "al-Watan" published an  
editorial on April 10 entitled, "What they want from the Arabs":

"It is crystal clear that America aims to protect Israel from all  
harm. To do this, it has changed its policy toward Arab nations.  
The new policy is to make war on, embarrass, and humiliate Arab  
countries that do not reform in the ways that it wants them to.  
Given this situation, Arab nations have only two options:  
willingly adhere to America's demands, or resist change and face  
its might."

STEWART